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STATE WIDE PROHIBITION



The Story of Memphis, Tennessee



A City of 200,000

State Wide Prohibition

THE STORY OF MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, A CITY OF 200,000.

Extracts from an article published in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, October 2, 1910, by Silas Bent, staff correspondent:

763 saloons before;

972 saloons under Prohibition

The State-wide prohibition law went into effect in Tennessee July 1, 1909. The recital of conditions one year later, shows the difference between strict regulation and unpopular laws.

"Under State-wide prohibition Memphis is a wide-open town; saloons, in increased numbers, sell drinks with no pretense at secrecy; gambling goes on in most of them; policemen enter them openly. The city authorities declare that prohibition having been thrust upon Memphis against its will, they propose to continue ignoring the law."

Mayor Crump

said: "I can do more good stopping gambling and closing dives than by trying to stop the sale of liquor. The State passed the law and should enforce it. There is no city ordinance against the sale of liquor."

Chief of Police Davis:

"Under Mayor Molone I made some arrests for violation of the law because he was in sympathy with prohibition, but the present mayor opposes it. I have no instructions to make arrests, and do not expect to make any. Memphis does not want prohibition. Public sentiment is against it."

Attorney General Estes,

who presented the government licenses to the grand jury in unsuccessful efforts to get indictments, and who has the approval of the Law Enforcement League for his efforts in that direction, says: "It is impossible to enforce a law which runs contrary to public opinion. Whenever the State passes a law unpopular in certain counties it can not be enforced in them.

"This is illustrated by the fact that I can, and do, get convictions against disorderly roadhouses around Memphis for selling liquor, but the same juries would refuse to convict a Memphis saloonkeeper, even if I could get an indictment. I stand ready at all times to prosecute any man in Memphis who sells liquor illegally, and am ready to do all in my power to get indictments, but I can not get them. You can not enforce an unpopular law."

Rev. M. E. Thompson,

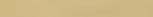
pastor of St. John's Methodist Church, recognized leader of the prohibition forces in Memphis, says: The conditions are much worse

than before the prohibition law was passed. Ignoring this law has created contempt in Memphis for all law. The saloonkeepers violate the law in the certainty that it is impossible to get a jury to convict them.

Bishop Thos. Gailor,

Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee: "The temperance agitation has resulted in unwise legislation. Many people thought State-wide prohibition would be the ideal remedy for the drink evil, but instead of calling to their aid some experts on legislation, and having laws passed which could be enforced, they forced through the Legislature a measure which has led to civic degeneracy. It is impracticable and can not be enforced."

DO YOU WANT THESE CONDITIONS TO EXIST IN CALIFORNIA?





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